

**Scientist Recruitment Initiative
RWU Proposal**

Name of Proposal Contact: Dr. Gregory A. Reams
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Name and contact point of proposed position supervisor: Dr. Gregory A. Reams

Position title/discipline of proposed position: Research Forester/Ecologist/Mathematical Statistician

Brief description of proposed RWU/graduate research supported through the position:

Duty location will be Asheville, NC, Starkville, MS, or Knoxville, TN: decision is pending on long-term location for Unit (decision anticipated by mid-year of FY2001). The Forest Service supervisor and student would develop a research program to address statistical modeling issues relevant to redesigning Forest Inventory & Analysis's (FIA) annual forest inventory system. Redesign and implementation of the annual forest inventory is a top priority of the agency. The urgency of an annual forest survey stems from our need to address basic forest sustainability issues. Annual surveys provide the baseline and monitoring information fundamental to addressing many resource issues. Keys to the success of the new inventory are the development of statistical models and estimators that take advantage of the annual nature of the data. New estimators that recognize the time series nature of the annual program will both improve the precision of the estimates and our understanding of changes in the resource.

The Southern Station is directly involved in research on redesigning the sampling, modeling and estimation systems for FIA. The RWU, Station, and WO have acknowledged this as a research priority for the Unit and the desire to staff the RWU to address this research. Research and new staffing in this area is identified in the RWUD and the Forest Service's strategic plan to implement the annual forest inventory as mandated by the Farm Bill of 1998.

Desirable academic qualifications of the student recruit: Masters or Bachelors degree in Forestry, Statistics, or Quantitative Ecology. The goal of the position would be to complete a Ph.D. program prior to conversion to a Research Forester, Research Ecologist, or Mathematical Statistician.

Colleges/universities: (to extend beyond those already identified in the Service-wide multicultural workforce initiatives such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and the Persons with Disabilities Initiative) to be contacted for potential recruits/applicants: University of Tennessee.

Potential colleges/universities to provide graduate education: The University of Tennessee has programs in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Mathematical/Statistical Ecology. The campus offers the unique opportunity to collaborate with other resource agencies because the

Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Energy's Environmental Science Division, the National Park Service, and University of Tennessee's Experiment Station and Extension Service are all located on or close to campus.

Brief description of the community environment (including housing, transportation, and recreational opportunities, ethnic breakdown): Asheville, NC is located in Western North Carolina at the junction of Interstates 26 and 40, with an I-240 connector and surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Starkville, MS is located in Northeast Mississippi and is known for its university-style atmosphere and its unique opportunities for entertainment, recreation, food and fellowship, outdoor fun, and historical enrichment.

Knoxville, TN is located in Eastern Tennessee and sits at the head of the Tennessee River. Many cultural and recreational amenities exist and is ranked 15th in the nation according to the "Best Places Almanac." There is no State personal income tax on wages or salary.

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Proposed temporary housing options for the student while working away from the campus: (for example while working for the RWU during summer months): Apartments are available, averaging \$500-620 per month. If a student's research is located elsewhere, support can be provided through research funds for temporary duty station.

Brief explanation of how this proposal supports the scientist recruitment initiative: This proposal directly supports the recruitment initiative because it will train a scientist for a priority position within the Station.

Station priority of proposal: Priority 1_____ Priority 2_____

I understand acceptance of this proposal will result in a commitment to hire the student into a full-time permanent scientist position at my unit upon completion of the program.

Gregory A. Reams	Section Head, FIA Methods & Techniques	June 14, 2000
James H. Perdue	Project Leader, FIA	June 14, 2000
Peter J. Roussopoulos	Station Director	June 14, 2000